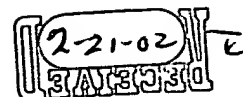


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Official**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re Application of:****Takahiro NISHI et al.****Serial No.: 09/118,991****Group Art Unit:****Filed: July 20, 1998****Examiner:****For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND DATA  
RECORDING MEDIUM****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT****Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231****Sir:**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the reference listed on Form PTO-1449 is attached.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the

information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that this reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

Aug 27, 1998  
Date

RWP/ak

Attorney Docket No.: HYAE:082

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